GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:192
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011
TRANSPORTATION OF FOODGRAINS
Das Shri Bhakta Charan

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transportation and distribution of foodgrains is governed by any specific policy/guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any reports regarding damage to foodgrains during transportation by road and rail;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such cases reported and the quantum and value of losses suffered during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Transportation of foodgrains is done on the basis of the requirement by the consuming regions, vacant storage capacity and need for evacuation from the procuring regions etc. The stocks are normally moved out on first in first out principle. The foodgrains are normally transported by Railways except where transportation is cheaper by road or there are constraints of wagon availability or storage space.

FCI is responsible for transportation of foodgrains upto designated depots. The responsibility for lifting the foodgrains from these designated depots and distributing the allocated foodgrains within the States/UTs is with concerned State/UT Government.

(c) & (d): Yes Madam, there have been reports of damage to foodgrains during transportation from one State to another through road and by rail. The details of number of such cases reported and the quantum and value of foodgrains damaged in transportation from one State to another during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Quantity (in MTs)	Value involved (in Rs. Lakh)
2010-11 (Upto July 2010)	145.5	9.05
2009-10	328	19.22
2008-09	552	33.94

(e): Steps have been initiated to avoid recurrence of such lapses in future. Field functionaries have been advised from time to time to make all out efforts for bringing down the losses even below the permissible limits.